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PATENT APPLICATION Election

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

J.M. Mueller
10/28/02

In re the Application of

Tsuyoshi TAMURA et al. /

Group Art Unit: 2826

Application No.: 09/981,734 /

Examiner: Johannes P. Mondt

Filed: October 19, 2001 /

Docket No.: 110927

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT USING SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the September 18, 2002 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 99, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-21 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

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Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 17, 2002

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